

6 June 2019

Invitation to the XV UBC General Conference, Kaunas, Lithuania, 15-18 October 2019

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE AND RESIDENT-FOCUSED CITY. THE BALTIC WAY.

Dear Mayors and Member City representatives,

You are cordially invited to attend the General Conference of the UBC which will be organized in Kaunas, Lithuania, on 15-18 October, 2019. The main working days will be 16 and 17 October. The General Conference will be devoted to the topics: “Inclusive Cities“ and “Culture as the Catalyst for Cities’ Development“.

In the recent years the questions how to encourage the citizens to be active in decision-making, how to include them in the social and cultural activities, to be resilient to various social and political processes going on in their societies and neighbourhoods, have been the questions very often asked at different political levels. The loss of public trust is one of the main challenges that democratic organizations face nowadays. Therefore, the role of the cities in restoring the public confidence is crucial as they are closest to the citizens and their daily life and needs.

The cities have all the potential to create opportunities for a better life, provide a pathway out of poverty and act as an engine of economic growth. Indeed, cities are often focal points for activities that are critical to the development of an entire country, such as trade and commerce, government, transport, and other fields.

To make sure that tomorrow’s cities provide opportunities and better living conditions for all, the UBC General Conference will emphasize the necessity of understanding the inclusion concept. It involves complex dimensions that interweave and reinforce each other.

We heartily encourage you to take part in the General Conference. We are sure that the vibrant and *kaunastic* atmosphere will be inspiring for all the participants and will contribute to the success of the event.

General Assembly on 17 October, 2019

The General Assembly of the UBC will take place on October 17, in the afternoon. The General Assembly shall, inter alia, elect the Presidium, consisting of the President and three Vice-Presidents, the Executive Board member cities for a two-year period, the Board of Audit members for a two-year period and Secretariat location for a four-year period.

Member Cities wishing to nominate candidates for the posts of President, 1st Vice-President and two Vice-Presidents shall do it in written and signed by the Mayor or other official representative of a Member City. Nominations of cities to the Executive Board should be submitted officially by each country.

All proposals (Presidium, Executive Board, Board of Audit, Secretariat) should be sent to the Union Secretariat in Gdańsk by **15 September 2019**.

Dear esteemed Mayors,

We would also like to emphasize the importance of participation of young people in the General Conference, therefore we would very much encourage you to include at least 1-2 young people in your delegation. Please see the programme of the General Conference attached. For more information and the registration, please visit <http://ubc.kaunas.lt/>

Welcome to the XV UBC General Conference in Kaunas!



Per Bødker Andersen
President of the UBC



Visvaldas Matijošaitis
Mayor of Kaunas